

**Learning How to be
Anti-Racist: Special Topics
*Fetishization, Romantic
Attraction, Adoption*
2/10/21**

Slides and materials from the discussion held on 2/10/21

COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

- 1) Please change your name in Zoom to include your pronouns.
- 2) Prepare to get uncomfortable and lean into that.
- 3) Use the “raise hand” feature if you would like to speak next.
- 4) Assume good intentions when others are speaking and take a breath before responding.
- 5) Use “I” statements and speak from your own experiences.

PRESENTED BY THE CARPENTER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
AND DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW SPEAKERS SERIES

Voices FOR JUSTICE

EQUITY & ARTS SERIES



Carpenter
center



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
LONG BEACH

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Why is Black History Month in February?
[video]



We See You,
White American
Theater

From: **Connie** <info@weseeyouwat.com>

Date: Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 12:05 PM

Subject:

To: <info@weseeyouwat.com>

As a long time theatre goer and someone who has a deep connection with cultural arts, I say this will backfire on you. Reason: it is the white middle aged group that financially support theatre and they do not appreciate being called these names nor see justification.

My minority friends in discussion have stated "You don't see many black audiences because generally it's not our thing." I've been to every August Wilson play repeated often as I like his plays. However, where is the black audience? I've been to plays, Mountain Top as prime example, excellent play, few black people in audience. This is not a criticism because groups do have special identifiable interests. Nothing racist about stating truths.

This seems racist to me, what this woke movement is trying to achieve with its "demands". Just this word is offensive.

So I want to state many many people feel this way and are withdrawing generous donations to theatre. It may take sometime to notice, but it will be felt eventually. Sad commentary on life now. Demands of any sort followed by personal attacks to undeserving people is recipe for disaster.

Concerned patron of the arts.





Tweet



Chiara Klein
@thechiaraklein



Connie's a case study, folks. And she's inside all our houses...

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Concerned patron of the arts.

Handwritten annotations:
 - racist whataboutism (points to "As a long time theatre goer...")
 - paternalism (points to "As a long time theatre goer...")
 - power hoarding (points to "Reason: it is the white middle aged group...")
 - defensiveness (points to "they do not appreciate being called these names...")
 - the myth of objectivity (points to "Nothing racist about stating truths.")
 - individualism reserved for white people (points to "Nothing racist about stating truths.")
 - tone policing (points to "This seems racist to me...")
 - white as default (points to "So I want to state many many people...")
 - white Saviorism (points to "So I want to state many many people...")
 - fear of open conflict (points to "So I want to state many many people...")



FETISHIZATION

From @uclasexperts

A process of imbuing an object or idea with power. A fetish object is often associated with sexual gratification, desire, and worship. Fetishization marks a cultural, psychological, and social technique of fetishizing things by making them appear larger than life, animate, or sexually desirable.

Essentially... a person becomes an object

RACIAL FETISHES

From @notyouryellowfantasy

The stereotyping and exoticification of large groups of people based on their racial identities. Whereas people can have a preference for a certain sexual lifestyle, action, or body part, race is different... one's race is uncontrollable.

THE CONCEPT OF “PREFERENCE”

From @uclasexperts

- Many people say that they just “prefer” people of a certain ethnicity/ race, but they do not fetishize them. However, the behaviors of preference and fetishizing seem strikingly similar.
- It is also important to note that saying we “prefer” certain kinds of people inherently contributes to racist frameworks, even if we aren’t trying to
- We don’t realize that our opinions about who we deem desirable are impacted by stereotypes, and our “preferences” often perpetuate them

Where does “preference” really come from?

From @uclasexperts

In social psychology, there are four factors that contribute to attraction:

- **Attractiveness**

- We gravitate towards those we believe to have a similar level of attractiveness to us

- **Proximity**

- We are more attracted to people we see more often (i.e. your neighborhood and exposure to different ethnicities can affect this)

Where does “preference” really come from?

From @uclasexperts

In social psychology, there are four factors that contribute to attraction:

- **Reciprocity**
 - If they like us back, we are more likely to like them
- **Similarity**
 - We find comfort in those who have things in common with us

There's a pattern to who we date, who we see around, who we are attracted to simply because of exposure, ease, comfort, physical attraction, and more... so how is fetishization born?

STEREOTYPES AND LACK OF EXPOSURE

From @uclasexperts

- Notice how “proximity” and “similarity” are two of the contributors to attraction... But what about people who fetishize people they are not similar to and did not grow up around?
- Here, we circle back to stereotypes, when we don't know much about a culture/ ethnicity/ race, we often adopt what we see from things like...

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO STEREOTYPES

From @uclasexperts

- **Media Outlets**

- Films + TV shows portraying tokenizing characters: think Sofia Vergara in “Modern Family.” Her character perpetuates the stereotype that Latinx women are sexy, but brainless, think about the shows you’ve seen where white men dominate an interracial relationship
- News channels disproportionately showing people of color being arrested/ committing crimes

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO STEREOTYPES

From @uclasexperts

- **Porn Industry**
 - Hyper-feminizes Asian + Latinx women, while it hyper=masculinizes Black women by making men “unable to say no”
- **“Scientific” Studies**
 - Many outdated studies actively sought to prove the difference between white and Black people through observing the body: these studies deemed Black people as hyper-sexual and deviant biologically

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO STEREOTYPES

From @uclasexperts

- **Remnants of Colonialism**
 - The white colonial mindset separated women of different ethnicities into categories seeing Black women as “tempting” (think “jezebel” stereotype), Asian + Latinx women as “exotic” and Indigenous women as powerless

Everyday comments that contribute to racial stereotypes

From @uclasexperts

- **“Latinas are hot”**
 - Hyper-feminization and sexualization of Latinx women, rather than focusing on other aspects of their value
- **“I only date Asian girls”**
 - Hyper-feminization of the Asian culture, and hyper-sexualization of Asian women
- **“I’m just not attracted to Asian guys”**
 - Again, the hyper-feminization of Asian people. Asian men are seen as “less masculine”
- **“Once you go Black you never go back”**
 - Hyper-sexualization of Black people
- **“Pretty for a Black girl”**
 - Hyper-masculinization of Black women

Everyday comments that contribute to racial stereotypes

From @uclasexperts

Remember

- Hyper-feminization makes people believe that Asian and Latinx women do not have valuable traits beyond their bodies
- Hyper-masculinization of Black women reinforces white beauty standards
- Hyper-sexualization of Black men contributes to the stereotype that they are “dangerous” or going to “steal white women”

Rethinking “Preference”

From @uclasexperts

- Of course, you cannot force yourself to be attracted to who you're not, but you can force yourself to think within new frameworks
- If you have thought in the past that you are only attracted to certain ethnic/ racial groups, reevaluate. Ask yourself, what about that group you “prefer?” Is your preference a stereotype/ generalization?
- Then think about the groups you do not “prefer” and ask yourself why? Again, is it based off a stereotype/ generalization?

Try reframing thoughts like this...

From @uclasexperts

- What draws me to this individual?
- How might differences in a relationship make it stronger?
- What are values I look for in a person?
- Where are my judgements coming from?
- Are my assumptions based on generalizations?

Happy Deconstructing!

SEXUAL RACISM

From @notyouryellowfantasy

- The term coined in the 1970s by Rutgers professor Stember, is "the sexual rejection of the racial minority" and the "conscious attempt on the part of the majority to prevent interracial cohabitation." It refers to an individual's sexual preference for specific races over others on the basis of perceived racial identity

FETISHIZATION

“When we don’t acknowledge how the uses of sex can and sometimes do align with white supremacy and anti-Blackness, white people can easily convince themselves that [having sex with] Black people and making children with them automatically absolves them of any racism.

They feel confident in using their engagement with Black desirability and sex as a shield against any accusations of racist behavior.

Moreover, they offer it as evidence of their anti-racism or support for Black lives.”

- Sherronda J. Brown







Jon Jons

@corkskrewed



Replying to [@ira](#)

The Help was crucial in opening my eyes to the beauty of all women no matter their skin color. I only date WOC now.

10:18 AM · 6/4/20 · [Twitter Web App](#)

FETISHIZATION

“The fetishization of Black people continues to be a mask for the dehumanization of Blackness itself, but so many have swallowed the lie that white desire is somehow evidence of care for Black life.”

- Sherronda J. Brown

FETISHIZATION

“The way sex is used and has been used to reify white ascendant ideals of personhood is revealed in the ways that entire Black communities and lives have been destroyed under the guise of protecting white women from Black men’s sexual appetites – consider Emmett Till, the Scottsboro Boys, the Central Park Five.

It is also revealed in the practice of Black men beholding white women as ‘upper echelon’ sex objects.

We see it in the coveting of mixed babies, especially ones with light skin and ‘good hair.’”

- Sherronda J. Brown

Fetishization of Mixed-Race Children

“The grotesque nature of seeking children that look a certain way – usually light skin, light eyes, straighter hair, Eurocentric features – often only exploits your own personal desire politics of who you find the most attractive.”

- Hunter Shackelford

Fetishization of Mixed-Race Children

“There are white people who are vying for mixed children like an accessory, obsess over our flesh as a prize or manifestation of owning our bodies (as your children) for performative and representative value.”

- Hunter Shackelford



mixedracebabiesig



8,059 likes

mixedracebabiesig Caucasian & African American • Kaia •

Submission By: @kmsalzano

#MRB #MixedRaceBabies #MixedLove

#Peace 🙌 #Love ❤️ #MixedBeauty ✨

Fetishization of Mixed-Race Children

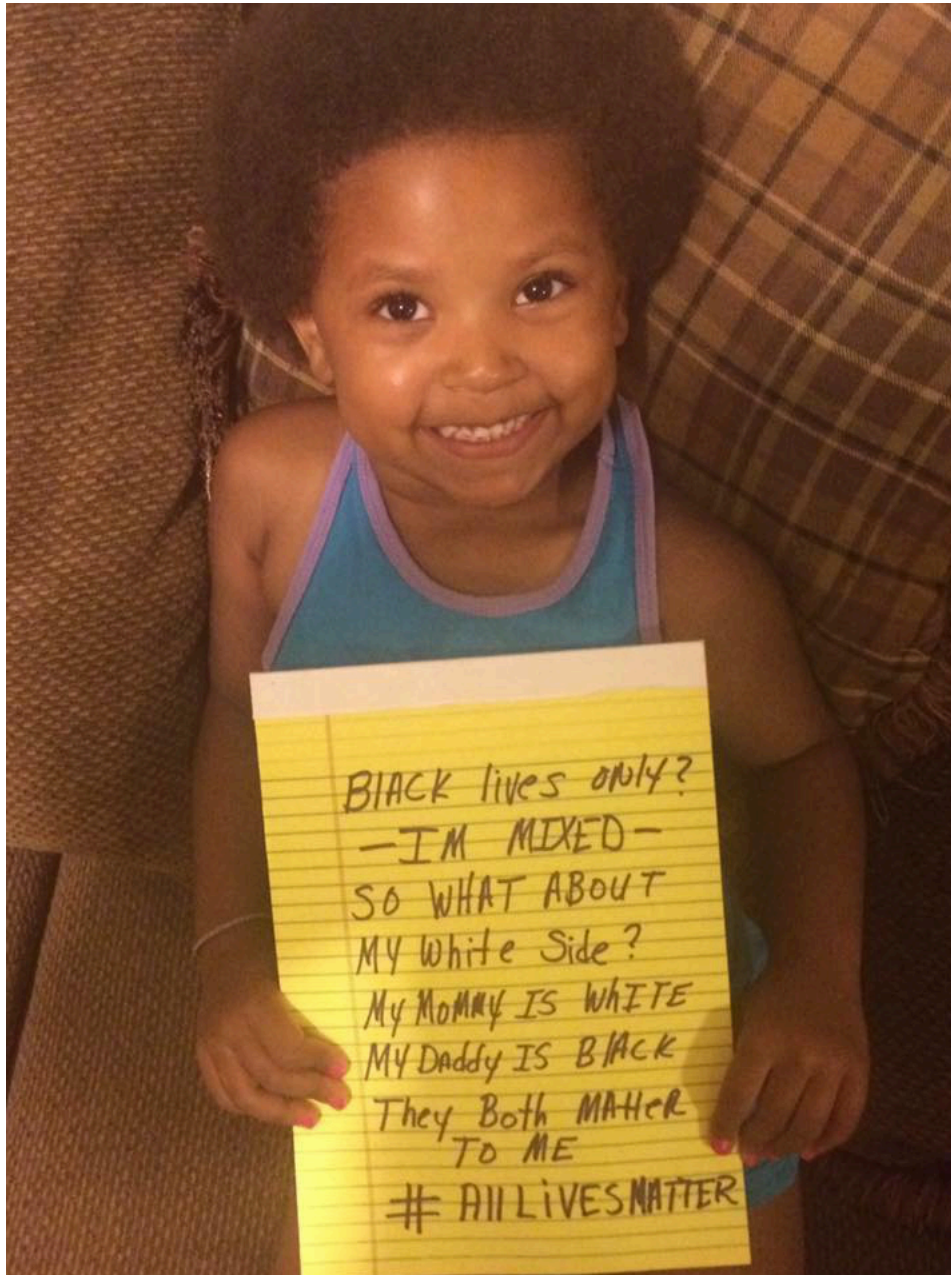
“This desire for racial ambiguity is the intersection of exoticism (which, of course, is a form of racism) and privilege. For centuries, the ‘otherness’ of non-European women has been depicted as seductive and alluring. These very concepts are the bridge connecting fetishization and desirability to hyper-sexualization and dehumanization.”

- Jessica Diggles

Fetishization of Mixed-Race Children

“White people unknowingly are infected with antiblackness in ways that operate as interpersonal, ideological, and institutional violence... You don’t automatically undo the inhabitation of white supremacist violence from your white personhood and mentality when you have Black children.”

- Hunter Shackelford



BLACK lives only?

-I'M MIXED-

SO WHAT ABOUT
MY White Side?

My MOMMY IS WHITE

MY DADDY IS BLACK

They Both MATTER
TO ME

ALL LIVES MATTER

Fetishization of Mixed-Race Children

“Being biracial or multiracial doesn’t stop white parents from teaching their kids internalized racism and colorism. Not all interracial relationships begin with a white partner who has a deep understanding of systemic racism, white privilege, and colorism.”

- Lara Witt

Fetishization of Mixed-Race Children

“Raising biracial or multiracial children isn’t a band-aid you can slap onto the festering wound that is racism.”

- Lara Witt

COLORISM

From @mengwe

Another type of discrimination that typically exists among people of the same race or ethnicity. It is the prejudice based on skin tone, usually marked with a preference for lighter-skinned people. It roots from the belief of white supremacy.

Examples of COLORISM

From @mengwe

- Telling children of color to stay out of the sun because "they'll get too dark"
- Refusing to cast darker-skinned people in important movie/television roles
- Refusing to date darker-skinned people
- Glorifying features like light skin, straight hair, or light eyes
- Using skin lightening and hair straightening products

WHITE SAVIOR COMPLEX

(A Summary) by @eiselley

A white person who acts to help non-white people, but in a context which can be perceived as self-serving, or, in other words, it's an idea in which a white person "rescues" BIPOC from their own situations.

WHITE SAVIOR COMPLEX

(A Summary) by @eiselley

It is about power imbalances, white privilege + the premise that BIPOC need “saving” – that they should be grateful for their saviors.

This may not even be conscious behavior on the part of the white savior. But there is an erasure of humanity that is harmful.

TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION

The act of placing a child of one racial or ethnic group with parents of a different racial or ethnic group

“The adoptee is appropriated, assimilated, made into the image and likeness of her parents and society. She is given a (new) name, language, religion, cosmology, worldview; she is, in a sense, colonized – for her own good, out of love.”

- Jennifer Ann Ho

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

- Most of the children leaving for international adoption are not actually orphans at all. Often, children are leaving over-exploited countries because of poverty, not because they are orphaned or without anyone to care for them
 - Only a fifth of all children adopted from Uganda were orphans who had lost both parents



**“WANNABE BLONDIE MAMAS
WITH OUR WANNABE
CHOCOLATE BABIES”**



63,001 likes

[laur_kins](#) wannabe blondie mamas with our
wannabe chocolate babies 🧡 #heartexplosion
#love1 #147millionorphans



No White Savivors
@nowhitesaviors



International adoption is a lucrative industry here in Uganda, one in which Black children are being bought & sold to fill the demand of the white savior who believes they are "saving" a child when really they are ripping families apart & stripping a child of their culture.

5:19 PM · 4/23/19 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)



No White Saviors

@nowhitesaviors



[@ThomasRhett](#) and his wife Lauren met a healthy baby girl in Uganda when she was 5 months. She was in an orphanage, but I promise you that this child has family. Family that was bypassed because wealthy white American celebrities "fell in love with her" and "knew she was theirs".



No White Savivors
@nowhitesaviors

MOST children in orphanages have families, families that are materially poor but with the right interventions, could be supported to keep their children. Do you think that [@ThomasRhett](#) and his wife worked with the orphanage in Masindi, [#Uganda](#) to try and resettle this baby girl?

5:28 PM · 4/23/19 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)



No White Saviors
@nowhitesaviors

Of course not. Listen to the way they tell the story of their adoption. It is THE narrative. The moment they saw her, they KNEW she was theirs. Pay attention to this sense of ownership over Black bodies and the total disregard for preserving Black families or culture.

5:30 PM · 4/23/19 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)



No White Savors

@nowhitesaviors



"Wannabe blondie mamas with our wannabe chocolate babies" Lauren writes before she found her "chocolate baby". Black families are torn apart while white adoptive families convince themselves this child was ALWAYS meant to be "theirs". This is white supremacy.

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

- Racism and white supremacy are the root cause and justification for the separation of Black families.
- From the child-finders to the lawyers to the judges to the biological families, many convince themselves that the children will be better off in a white family.

A YouTuber Placed Her Autistic Adopted Son From China With A New Family — After Making Content With Him For Years

Myka Stauffer built her YouTube following partly by sharing every step of her journey to adopt a toddler from China. This week, she revealed why he'd gone missing from her videos.

By Stephanie McNeal



INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

“When adoptive parents go into the process with the idea that they are fulfilling some sort of decree from God to save children from orphanages, they are assuming a white savior mentality.

The elevate themselves to the role of disciples in order to provide children with a ‘happily ever after,’ without considering what they will need to do to allow for an adopted child to become healthy.”

- Melissa Guida-Richards

ADOPTION

- In the US, between 10% to 25% of adoptions are disrupted
 - Disruptions refer to when an adoption is ended and the child is returned to foster care or new adoptive parents before it becomes legally finalized
- About 1% to 5% are dissolved
 - This occurs after a finalized adoption, when the child's relationship with their adoptive family is legally severed, and the child is then placed in foster care or with new adoptive parents

ACTION ITEM #1

Send someone a
Social Justice Valentine
[For the Love of Justice](#)

FETISHIZATION, ROMANTIC ATTRACTION, ADOPTION SOURCES AND RESOURCES

Fetishization and Preferences

[*Why Exclusionary Racial Preferences Are Racist*](#)

[*Don't Conflate the Fetishization of Black Bodies with the Care for Black Lives*](#)

[*White sexuality is a breeding ground for racial violence*](#)

[*Neo-Nazi Milo Yiannopoulos's Black Husband Proves "You Can't Help Whom You Love" Is White Supremacist Bullsh*t*](#)

[*Study suggests Black women are more sexually objectified than White women*](#)

[*Revisiting the Jezebel Stereotype: The Impact of Target Race on Sexual Objectification*](#)

[*The Brute Caricature*](#)

[*PSA: Mixed Black Babies Will Never Put an End to Antiblack Racism*](#)

[*Biracial Fetishization & the World of Racial Breeding – No, Mixed Kids Are Not the 'Future of Diversity'*](#)

[*Stop Weaponizing Biracial Children*](#)

FETISHIZATION, ROMANTIC ATTRACTION, ADOPTION SOURCES AND RESOURCES

Adoption

[The Trauma of Transracial Adoption](#)

[There is no way to capture the full complexity of transracial adoption](#)

[International Adoption and the White Savior Industrial Complex](#)

[I was adopted outside of the US and have disabilities. I'm tired of the savior narrative among white adoptive parents.](#)

['I want my kids back': how overseas adoptions splinter Uganda's families](#)

[List of international adoption scandals](#)

COMING UP

***Learning How to be Anti-Racist: Special Topics –
Intersectionality***

Race, Gender, Accessibility, Class

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

6:00PM – 8:00PM PT